

Annual Report

Montana State Special Education Advisory Panel

July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011



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**Prepared by the Montana Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, Superintendent
Division of Special Education
PO Box 202501
Helena, Montana 59620-2501**

Overview

In accord with Section 612(21), of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), Montana has established the Special Education Advisory Panel. The responsibilities of this state advisory panel are to:

- Advise the Office of Public Instruction of unmet needs within the state in the education of children with disabilities;
- Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities;
- Advise the Office of Public Instruction in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under Section 618 of the Act;
- Advise the Office of Public Instruction in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports under Part B of the Act;
- Advise the Office of Public Instruction in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities; and
- Advise on the education of eligible students with disabilities who have been convicted as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons.

Montana's Special Education Advisory Panel serves as the steering/advisory committee for the State Performance Plan (SPP) under Part B of IDEA, annual self-assessment activities and development of improvement strategies for improving outcomes of students with disabilities. In this capacity, the advisory panel, on a continuing basis, reviews statewide outcome data on key indicators for students with disabilities, advises the Office of Public Instruction on improvement strategies for improved outcomes and reviews progress on the key indicators on no less than an annual basis.

Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes

Office of Public Instruction
1300 11th Avenue Conference Room, Helena
October 7-8, 2010

Members in Attendance: Tim Norbeck, Mick Leary, Vaughn Kauffman, Lora Griffin, Bob Stansberry, Dave Mahon, Dustin Shipman, Christa Seger, Jim Marks, Terry Galle, Sharon Tregidga, Cody Preston, Edith McClafferty

Excused Members: Rena Steyaert (Thursday), Pam Campbell, Mick Leary (Friday)

Non-Members in Attendance: Tim Harris, Frank Podobnik, Steve York, Dick Trerise, John Copenhaver, Mary Gallagher, Paula Kitzke, Danni McCarthy, Francisco Roman, Marlene Wallis

Vice Chairperson Tim Norbeck called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Panel members, OPI staff and visitors introduced themselves.

Thursday, October 7, 2009

The Panel reviewed the Proposed Agenda. Dave Mahon moved to accept the Proposed Agenda, Terry Galle seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Proposed Agenda was accepted as written.

The Panel reviewed the Minutes of the April 29-30, 2010, Panel meeting. Mick Leary moved to accept the minutes, Christa Seger seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Minutes of the April 29-30, 2010, Panel meeting were accepted as written.

Overview of Panel Duties

Dick Trerise presented a brief overview of the Panel duties. He noted that a majority of the members of the panel shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26).

Election of Officers

The election of officers was scheduled for the June 7-8, 2010, Panel meeting. This meeting was cancelled; therefore, the election of officers is being held at this meeting.

Dustin Shipman moved that Vice Chairperson, Tim Norbeck, be elected as the Chairperson, Dave Mahon seconded the motion and the motion passed. Tim Norbeck will serve as the Chairperson for 2010-2011.

Vaughn Kauffman nominated Christa Seger as Vice-Chairperson, Bob Stansberry seconded the nomination and Christa Seger was appointed as the Vice-Chairperson by acclamation. Christa Seger will serve as the Vice-Chairperson for 2010-2011.

Dave Mahon nominated Dustin Shipman as Secretary, Vaughn Kauffman seconded the nomination and Dustin Shipman was appointed as the Secretary by acclamation. Dustin Shipman will serve as Secretary for 2010-2011.

OPI Report

Assistant Superintendent Steve York reported on “What is Going on at OPI.”

Race to the Top

Steve noted that Montana was not awarded the Race to the Top Grant. It was written to fit Montana and that does not align with the federal push. He said that the work has provided good guidance for where we are heading and good insight into the direction of the reauthorization of ESEA.

School Improvement Grant—Montana Schools of Promise

The grant is in place and active in four of the five eligible districts.

Quaglia Institute

The Institute selected Montana and the MBI as a demonstration site; one of ten in the United States.

Career and Tech Ed-MCIS

The Big SKY Pathways program has rolled out and is available; work is being completed to expand course offerings in the Montana Digital Academy to include more CTE courses; and 46 percent of those graduating in recent years have been concentrators, which mean they took three or more CTE courses in high school.

National Common Core Standards

Standards have been released and adopted by 37 states. Montana has not yet adopted them.

Web Wise Kids

Montana did not get the earmark for the Web Wise Kids, but we will try again.

School Food and Health Enhancement

A bill, called the BMI bill, will provide an avenue to collect the data so we know what the rate of obesity is for our children; Driver's Education continues to struggle with funding; Montana did receive a \$125,000 bridge grant to coordinate ongoing Safe and Drug-Free School activities. The formula grant monies no longer exist. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is being administered again this year.

Chapter 55-Accreditation Standards Review

The committee is making progress. One aspect of the committee is to review evaluation requirements for all certified personnel.

Indian Education

The program relating to Indian Education for All is still working on closing the achievement gap.

Title I

It is likely we will have a steep increase in schools not making AYP as Annual Measurable Objectives rise this year.

Data

We are continuing to build our data system on making sure it is user friendly, secure and has a concentration on using data and not just collecting it.

Legislature

The primary push will be a bill to raise the age of required school attendance to 18.

CSPD/Professional Development

Nikki Sandve reported on Project REAL: Responsive Education for All Learners. This project is designed to address three goals: Capacity Building; Support to LEAs; and Low-Incidence Support. The OPI will provide leadership for the activities that are designed to address each of these goals, with partnerships with personnel at the University of Montana, Parents, Let's Unite for Kids and the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. The activities will engage a statewide network of consultants and facilitators who have been trained to support schools in adopting evidence-based models and instructional strategies shown to be effective in addressing needs of diverse students.

OPI Special Education Report

Personnel

Tim reported that the Division of Special Education will hire one more data person. Jenine Synness has taken a position with another division at the OPI; therefore, a replacement will be hired for her position with Special Education. Tim also noted that there are three opening positions with Response to Intervention (RTI).

Public Comment

Chairperson Tim Norbeck asked if there were public comments. There were none.

SIG—Schools of Promise

Sarah Pierce reported on the SIG-Schools of Promise. This initiative creates innovative collaborations to strengthen the state's most struggling schools. It creates a new partnership with the school systems that are eligible in Montana for the grant funding. The partnership calls for

more teacher involvement, more time with students, revamped teacher evaluation and more community involvement. Sarah noted that the program is child centered and connects with parents, community and school. The program has established overall vision and approach to impact low-achieving schools; developed a place-based inventory tool for collecting programmatic information; and made community visits.

Sarah said that there are a lot of steps to take to impact low-achieving schools and it is a long, hard process. She said the Superintendent's direction is to create schools where students feel safe and have high expectations, parents are proud to send their children and all adults in the system are pushing for increased achievement and shared success.

Early Assistance Program/Legal Up-Date

Mary Gallagher reported that the Legal Services and Special Education Divisions of the Office of Public Instruction continue to implement the Early Assistance Program (EAP). This program is designed to provide technical assistance to parents, school districts, and advocacy organizations in regard to the delivery of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) for students with disabilities. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), parents can file complaints if they feel a district is not following administrative rules. The intent of the EAP program is to intervene prior to or at the time of filing a complaint with the OPI. At this intervention point the EAP will gather information pertinent to the situation from parents, schools, and others who are involved with the issue and attempt to resolve the problem within 15 school days.

Mary noted that the philosophy is to resolve issues amicably and, thereby, prevent costly legal entanglements wherever possible. She said that given the opportunity to discuss the issues at hand in a less formidable and confrontational venue, both parents and schools can reach agreement without undermining the relationships necessary to ensure the smooth delivery of special education services to children and youth with disabilities. If mediation does not solve the issue the parent can make a due process request to be heard in front of a hearing officer.

Mary Gallagher said that some of the issues presented to legal include autism (which is the major issue), behavior, isolation of student with down syndrome, small schools having difficulties with high-needs students, accommodations for bipolar students, as well as what methodology is provided to schools with students with autism.

Part B/Data and Accountability Unit

Frank Podobnik, Unit Manager, Part B/Data and Accountability Unit/Administrative Support, manages the IDEA Part B/Preschool Allocations, E-Grants, Child Count, State Special Education Funding, State Performance Plan, Annual Performance Report, School Psychology Services, Special Education Data Collections, Federal Reporting, AIM, and Cooperative Memberships.

Frank Podobnik informed the Panel of what data are collected by the Data and Accountability Unit—i.e., Child Count, Exiting Information, Discipline, Post-School Survey. The unit provides

data analysis for the Annual Performance Report (APR) and the State Performance Plan (SPP). Frank will go over the APR and SPP at the January Panel meeting.

Frank told the Panel that a new Data person would be hired soon.

School Improvement/Monitoring Unit

Dick Trerise, Unit Manager, School Improvement/Monitoring, manages Compliance Monitoring, Focused Intervention, Secondary Transition, Transition Outcomes Project, Preschool, Mandt Training and the Significant Needs Grant.

Dick told the Panel that monitoring is on a 5-year cycle. Following monitoring the debriefing team informs the schools if there are required or corrective actions from the monitoring. If there are, it becomes necessary for the districts to submit ongoing evidence of their corrective actions.

New teacher training and AIM training are available to the districts.

Adjourn

Dennis Shipman moved to adjourn the meeting for the day, Dave Mahon seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Panel adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Friday, October 8, 2010

Advisory Panel Orientation

Dick Trerise introduced John Copenhaver to the members of the Panel. John is the Director for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) and principal investigator for the Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center (MPRRC). Mr. Copenhaver has experience in special education at the school district, state, regional, and national levels. Before joining the TAESE/MPRRC staff, Mr. Copenhaver served as a special education resource teacher, school psychologist, and special education director. His work at TAESE and the MPRRC has involved providing technical assistance at the school, state, regional, and national levels. Mr. Copenhaver has extensive experience in Indian education. He provides technical assistance to states regarding their State Performance Plan, Annual Performance Report, and Levels of Determination.

John informed the Panel members that the purpose of the orientation was to provide Panel members with an overview of their purpose and functions and provide a heads up for Panel members on emerging regional and national issues.

John explained that some of the major issues, such as the economy, will impact the decisions the Panel members are faced with. He said that there will be more emphasis on fiscal accountability

He explained that a majority of the members must be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities. The state superintendent appoints the Panel members. Panel members represent a stakeholder group and should express the views of that group. The Panel's role is to advise not advocate regarding priority issues. Functions of the Panel that are outlined in the IDEA regulations include: advise the SEA of unmet needs within the state in the education of children with disabilities; comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities; advise the SEA on developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under Section 618 of the Act; advise the SEA in developing improvement plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports under Part B of the Act; advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities; and advise on eligible students with disabilities in adult prisons. John said that the bylaws should be reviewed annually. The Panel members received a packet of information regarding their roles as members of the Panel.

It was noted that the Panel serves without compensation, attends reasonable and necessary meetings and may request interpreters. The Panel needs to provide input for Advisory Panel agenda items. The meetings are open for public comment with ground rules and official minutes are taken.

Meeting Dates

January 13-14, 2011

May 5-6, 2011 (Joint Meeting with CSPD)

Agenda Items

The State Performance Plan (SPP)

The Annual Performance Report (APR)

Legislature

Adjourn

Dustin Shipman moved to adjourn the meeting; Christa Seger seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes

Office of Public Instruction

1300 11th Avenue Conference Room, Helena

January 13-14, 2011

Members in Attendance: Tim Norbeck, Vaughn Kauffman, Lora Griffin, Bob Stansberry, Dave Mahon, Dustin Shipman, Christa Seger, Jim Marks, Terry Galle, Erica Swanson, Cody Preston, Rena Steyaert, Pam Campbell

Excused Members: Mick Leary, Sharon Tregidga, Edith McClafferty

Non-Members in Attendance: Tim Harris, Frank Podobnik, Steve York, Dick Trerise, Mary Gallagher, Paula Kitzke, Marlene Wallis

Chairperson Tim Norbeck called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Panel members, OPI staff and visitors introduced themselves.

Thursday, January 13, 2011

The Panel reviewed the Proposed Agenda. Dave Mahon moved to accept the Proposed Agenda, Vaughn Kaufmann seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Proposed Agenda was accepted as written.

The Panel reviewed the Minutes of the October 7-8, 2010, Panel meeting. Vaughn Kauffman moved to accept the minutes, Rena Steayert seconded the motion and the motion passed. The minutes of the October 7-8, 2010, Panel meeting were accepted as written.

OPI SPED Report

Tim Harris reported to the Panel that the Special Education Division, at this time, is not fully staffed. He introduced Janine O'Connor, administrative support for the Division, and said that Jan Duiker would join the division shortly. Jan will be part of the Data and Accountability Unit. The RTI Specialist position has not been filled.

It was announced that Tim Harris received the Glenn I. Latham Award from the Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) at the Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State University. This award is presented each year to an individual working at the state level that: has made contributions to improving services for children with disabilities at the local, state and regional levels; shows ongoing compassion and dedication in the area of special education; demonstrates leadership; promotes results for children with disabilities; keeps the main thing the main thing for children with disabilities; and processes similar characteristics and philosophy of special education as Dr. Latham.

This is a great honor for Tim and for the state of Montana.

CSPD Report

Nikki Sandve said that the 2nd Annual Mental Health Conference will be held in Helena on March 3 and 4, 2011.

Nikki said that there are five CSPD Regions. She explained the project application the regions complete and how they connect to the State Performance Plan (SPP) and the data that CSPD receives for each region.

OPI Report

Assistant Superintendent Steve York reported on “What is Going on at OPI.”

Quaglia Institute

Steve reported that thanks to the Pearson Foundation and the Quaglia Institute, there are somewhere near 19,000 6th-12th-grade students signed up to complete the “My Voice” survey, which is at or above 25 percent of the 6th-12th- grade students in the state. Statewide data will be available in February.

Dr. Quaglia will give a series of presentations for administrators, counselors and MBI school leaders March 1-3.

Career and Tech Ed-MCIS

The Big SKY Pathways program is rolled out and available. Part of the process is the newly designed Montana Career Information System. Access at:

<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/career/?PAGEID=3&SUBID=173>

Health Enhancement

There will likely be bullying legislation that will focus on a standard definition and required policy.

The OPI and partners asked for an earmark through Senator Tester last year to make available an internet-based training program for middle school-aged kids titled Web Wise Kids. We did not get it, but will resubmit a request this year.

The Safe and Drug-Free Schools monies are gone for the formula grant. We did get a \$125,000 bridge grant to coordinate ongoing Safe and Drug-Free School activities.

ESEA-Title I

Steve said that the reauthorization talk is picking up. One common theme clear in the Obama Administration’s plan is to move from looking at highly qualified teachers to high-quality teaching and, ultimately, to teacher effectiveness.

Annual Measurable Objectives rise this year. One bright spot is that making safe harbor is statistically much narrower at higher levels of success than it is when schools have large numbers not making proficiency. Change needs to occur at the federal level for this change, as we are locked in by our state grant.

Four districts in the state are involved in an intensive improvement process under the School Improvement Grant. These schools are the lowest achieving schools in the state.

Accreditation and Curriculum

National Common Core Standards have been released and adopted by 40-41 states. Montana is working on alignment, but has not yet adopted them. That decision should come late this spring. The chapter 55-Accreditation Standards review is moving along. There is a subcommittee of the task force that is looking into upgrading the accreditation requirement around teacher and administrator evaluation.

Indian Education

Indian Education continues to do great work in both the delivery of guidance around IEFA and in tracking the closing of the Indian Achievement Gap.

The division's largest concern is the General Fund funding source and anything to do with the General Fund is a concern this legislative session.

Legislature

The primary push beyond saving the budget is Senate Bill 44 to raise the age of required attendance to 18.

CSPD/Professional Development

Nikki Sandve reported on Project REAL: Responsive Education for All Learners. This project is designed to address three goals: Capacity Building; Support to LEAs; and Low-Incidence Support. The OPI will provide leadership for the activities that are designed to address each of these goals, with partnerships with personnel at the University of Montana, Parents, Let's Unite for Kids and the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. The activities will engage a statewide network of consultants and facilitators who have been trained to support schools in adopting evidence-based models and instructional strategies shown to be effective in addressing needs of diverse students.

State Performance Report (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR)

The remainder of Thursday's meeting and Friday's meeting was devoted to the State Performance Report (SPP) and the Annual Performance Report (APR).

Frank Podobnik reviewed Indicators 1-20 in the State Performance Report (SPP) with the Panel.

Public Comment

Chairperson Tim Norbeck asked if there were public comments. There were none.

Adjourn

Justin Shipman moved to adjourn the meeting for the day, Terry Galle seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Panel adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Friday, January 14, 2011

State Performance Report (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR) (Continued)

Frank Podobnik and the Panel continued to review and discuss the 20 Indicators in the State Performance Report.

The Panel reviewed and discussed the Part B State Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2009. This report serves as Montana's accountability report on its performance relative to state performance targets identified in its State Performance Plan (SPP). Following the review, Vaughn Kauffman made the motion for the Panel to support the Annual Performance Report as it was presented to the Panel, Christa Seger seconded the motion and the Panel unanimously passed the motion to support the Annual Performance Report for FFY 2009.

Meeting Dates

May 5-6, 2011 (Joint Meeting with CSPD)

Agenda Items

Joint Meeting with CSPD

Adjourn

Dave Mahon moved to adjourn the meeting, Terry Galle seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes

Office of Public Instruction
1300 11th Avenue Conference Room, Helena
May 5-6, 2011

Members in Attendance: Tim Norbeck, Vaughn Kauffman, Lora Griffin, Bob Stansberry, Dave Mahon, Christa Seger, Terry Galle, Cody Preston, Rena Steyaert, Sharon Tregidga

Excused Members: Mick Leary, Edith McClafferty, Erica Swanson, Pam Campbell, Jim Marks, Dustin Shipman

Non-Members in Attendance: Dennis Parman, Tim Harris, Frank Podobnik, Dick Trerise, Sara Casey, Francisco Roman, Doug Doty, Mary Gallagher, Paula Kitzke, Judy Snow, Jan Duiker, Karen Crogan, Anne Rainey, Marlene Wallis

Non-Members in Attendance from PLUK: Bobbie Thurston, Stephanie Luehr, Mary Hall, Tom Lymand, Melody Domp, Eric Porter, Virginia DeLand. Also in attendance were Alexandra Volkorts, Attorney, Disability Rights Montana, and Andree Larose, Attorney.

Chairperson Tim Norbeck called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Panel members, OPI staff and visitors introduced themselves.

Thursday, May 5, 2011

The Panel reviewed the Proposed Agenda. Dave Mahon moved to accept the Proposed Agenda, Vaughn Kaufmann seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Proposed Agenda was accepted as written.

The Panel reviewed the Minutes of the January 13-14, 2011, Panel meeting. Vaughn Kauffman moved to accept the minutes, Rena Steayert seconded the motion and the motion passed. The minutes of the January 13-14, 2011, Panel meeting were accepted as written.

OPI SPED Report

Tim Harris informed the Panel that interviews will soon be held for the Response to Intervention (RTI) position. He also noted that Sara Casey will be leaving the OPI, Division of Special Education. Sara will be moving to New York with her husband.

Tim reported that it appears there will be no increase/decrease in state Part B funds. Also, Part B/Preschool funding will probably have a 2 percent reduction.

Tim will meet May 12, 2011, in Missoula, with the 20 graduates with Master's in Sign Language Pathology.

Tim distributed a "Save the Date" flyer for a Webinar titled "Overview of the New Structure of OSEP's Continuous Improvement and Focused Monitoring System (CIFMS) and Stakeholder Involvement. The Webinar is scheduled for May 20, 2011.

OPI/LEGISLATURE Report

Deputy Superintendent Dennis Parman distributed a list of bills the OPI is following. He said that the list is updated twice daily. He noted that HJR 005 (Establish Montanans with Developmental Disabilities Appreciation Week) became law and SB 073 (Allow state-operated health care facilities with special education to establish maximum age) also passed. He said that the governor has publicly sworn to veto HB 316 (Redistribute certain revenue and income).

Deputy Superintendent Parman informed the Panel that HB 456 (Define scope/boundaries of human sexuality/reproductive education in K-12 public schools) was in the “Process to Attempt an Override of the Governor’s Veto.”

The list of bills is included with the file copy of the minutes.

Montana Developmental Disabilities Council

Sara Casey reported on the Montana Developmental Disabilities Council. There are 29 Montanans serving on the Council. The members were appointed by the Governor. The majority of the members are people with developmental disabilities and family members. Others represent agencies and groups that work on behalf of people with disabilities.

The Council was housed in state government since 1971; in 2003, the Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities left state government and became the first, documented nonprofit Council in the country.

Since the Council’s inception in 1971 the Council has allocated over 6 million dollars into Montana communities, state agencies, tribal governments and community-based providers of the Developmental Disabilities Service system.

Investments have been made in:

- Transportation. The lack of transportation options for persons with disabilities has been identified as a barrier. The Council created the *Montana Coordinated Transportation Handbook*, that has been nationally recognized.
- Graduate to Work. This is an employment option for transition-age youth, ages 14-22. It allows transition-age youth to graduate to something other than a waiting list for services—it allows a graduation to a job.
- License to Independence. This project provided persons the opportunity to take the driver’s education curriculum, the written examination and the driving test.
- Montana Youth Leadership Forum. This leadership opportunity has been successful, gathering youth from across Montana for an intensive two-week training opportunity.

Early Assistance Program Report

Mary Gallagher, Attorney/Special Education, Early Assistance Program (EAP), reported there were 13 complaints for FY 2010; four were settled in mediation; seven are still ongoing; and two were withdrawn. Types of allegations include abuse in Special Education Room to bringing a weapon to school. Mary said that the Legal Services and Special Education Divisions continue to implement the Early Assistance Program.

The 16 IEP facilitations resolved the issues. Mary asked that if you are involved in any IEP facilitation, she would like to know. She said that if districts are having problems, they can e-mail her at the OPI. All input is helpful. Mary said that her office receives 15-20 calls a week regarding Early Assistance. Mary noted that resolving issues on good terms, without costly legal situations, is the basic concept of the Legal Services and Special Education Divisions.

Public Comment

The visitors at the Panel had input on several items. The Chairman informed the visitors that they were more than welcome to provide comments, but there could be no discussion at the regular meeting. If the questions they asked required answers, an OPI Special Education staff member could reply in writing or following the meeting there could be discussion. Some of the comments included: Criminalization of kids with disabilities; we know Early Intervention works; Emotional Disturbance—know they can't reprimand the same as regular education students; Evaluation—parents write letter for permission, OPI has influence—OPI has legal obligations; Improve dialogue between the OPI and stakeholders; Options are not open to Special Education graduating students; Following training in high school, it is lost after a few weeks if they are not using the training; Collect data on schools that use police; Calling police on kids with problems not criminal; would like to see the OPI take systemic complaints seriously, resolve at lowest point; include stakeholders in reviewing state plan; post upcoming dates of Panel meetings as soon as possible; invite stakeholders to meetings—there is less outreach to organizations; urge Panel to bring all stakeholders to table to help advise before making decisions.

Joint Meeting with CSPD State Council

The Panel met in a joint meeting with the CSPD Council and the Part C Family Support Services Advisory Council. John Copenhaver, Director, Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE), Utah State University, facilitated the meeting. The meeting agenda included: Overviews from the Special Education Advisory Panel, the CSPD Council and the Part C FSSAC; Review of Collaboration Activities Between Part C and Part B; Emerging Regional and National Issues that Impact Part C and Part B; and Moving From a Focus on Compliance to Results: The OSEP Verification Process.

Friday, May 6, 2011

School Administrators of Montana Conference Room

Chairman Tim Norbeck called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Assessment Consortium

Judy Snow, State Assessment Director, presented a MONTCAS Update PowerPoint. Topics covered were: Grants; ESEA Reauthorization; Common Core Standards; and Assessment Consortium.

Grants. OPI Assessment Division applied for and received three grants to study accessibility design and formats for assessment based on modified achievement standards for students with individual education plans. In one of the grants, Montana partnered with four other states.

ESEA Reauthorization. Judy informed the Panel that modified achievement standards are not in the proposed ESEA reauthorization.

Common Core Standards. Judy said that three alignment studies show good alignment to the most recent Montana standards and standards that address Indian Education for All.

Assessment Consortium. A year ago, Montana applied for a Race to the Top consortium grant, but did not receive one. However, Montana is part of a 31-member states assessment consortium which applied for and was awarded a Race to the Top grant for multiple state consortia. Montana is part of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) which is developing a set of comprehensive and innovative assessments for grades 3-8 and high school in English language arts and mathematics aligned to the Common Core State Standards—so that all students leave high school prepared for postsecondary success in college or a career through increased student learning and improved teaching. The assessments shall be operational across Consortium states in the 2014-15 school year. Judy said the assessments are currently being developed and include Online Adaptive Summative Assessments, Online Adaptive Interim Assessments, and online Formative Processes and Tools and Professional Development.

The benefits of a multi-state consortium are less cost and more capabilities through work sharing and collaboration.

Judy distributed information regarding “Online Class Offering: Standards-Based IEPs.” A summer class will be presented online by Gail McGregor of the University of Montana on Standards-Based IEPs. You can contact Karen Richem for information at krichem@mt.gov or 406-444-0748.

Traumatic Brain Injury Council

Francisco Román has been the OPI representative to the Governor’s Council on Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) for four years. The Council is made up of the following members: Director of the DPHHS or a designee; Superintendent of Public Instruction or a designee; Representative of a program that provides senior and long-term care services appointed by the Director of the Department; Six members of the public, appointed by the governor. Public members of the Council shall serve 3-year terms beginning January 1. The Council’s mission is to: Advise and make recommendations to the DPHHS and other state agencies; encourage citizen participation through the establishment of public hearings and other types of community outreach and prevention activities; encourage and stimulate research, public awareness, education and prevention activities; and advise the Department on the expenditures of the brain injury account and any grants made from that account. The Council’s mission shall also be to make recommendations to the Indian Nations on ways to improve and develop services regarding brain injury.

The Council meets quarterly. At least one meeting is held through a conference call.

Montana Autism Education Project

Doug Doty, Coordinator, Montana Autism Education Project, gave the following report regarding the Montana Autism Education Project.

The Montana Autism Education Project (MAEP) of the Division of Special Education has provided consultation/training visits from the three MAEP autism consultants to 27 school districts across the state so far this year. These consultation visits are available to any school district serving students with autism and typically last one or two days with a follow-up report and the opportunity for further visits.

The MAEP will be paying the registration fees for local staff in the Missoula and Billings areas to attend autism conferences this spring and summer. This provides increased opportunities for staff training with little or no cost to districts and is a way of supporting autism conferences. We are also paying for a nationally recognized autism speaker to appear at the Montana CEC conference and are looking at bringing back advanced training in the PECS communication system as a follow-up to the 2010 PECS trainings in Kalispell, Belgrade and Miles City. These two-day trainings cost less than \$80 per attendee, which was necessary to cover the cost of materials.

Other ways the Montana Autism Education Project has been working to support schools in educating students with autism are:

Providing information about educating students with autism either by sponsoring the cost for a webinar at multiple locations (18 sites in March, from Plentywood to Libby) or sharing information about free webinars on the Montana Autism Education Project blog (<http://www.opi.mt.gov/autism/maep>). The increasing use of webinars and sharing information through the internet makes a great amount of autism knowledge available anywhere, anytime. The MAEP blog is updated several times a week with news, information and upcoming trainings about autism and Asperger's.

Piloting a two-day training in developing functional behavior assessments and behavior interventions for students with problem behaviors. Although the training is focused on students with autism, the information from the training can be used with any student who has behavior problems. This training will be replicated across Montana.

This school year the MAEP began providing a monthly half-day training and follow-up consultation to 11 districts in Northwest Montana. The 40 staff attending each training are given homework assignments which are then reviewed by the MAEP autism consultants, in addition to side-by-side consultations. The purpose of this training model is to develop the autism expertise of staff in each participating district. The feedback about this training model from the special education teachers, school psychologists and administrators has been very positive. We will be

doing this same intensive autism training and consultations for schools in the Bitterroot Valley and Missoula area in the 2011-2012 school year. In the following years, we will share this model across the state.

Annual Performance Report/ARRA Funds/Allocation

Frank Podobnik informed the Panel that the Revisions to the APR, Revisions to Indicators in the APR and Revision to the SPP were mailed on April 12, 2011. The OSEP will review the revisions and provide a response in June.

Frank noted that the ARRA funds will expire September 30, 2011.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Meeting Dates

July 7, 2011 (One-day Meeting)
September 22-23, 2011

Agenda Items

July 7, 2011

State Determination
PLUK, Overall Operation of PLUK
Levels of Determination
Recognize Outgoing Panel Members
Election of Officers

September 22-23, 2011

Orientation
Aftermath of Legislature
Overview of Special Education Projects
CSPD

Adjourn

Dave Mahon moved to adjourn the meeting, Terry Galle seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes

Office of Public Instruction

1300 11th Avenue Conference Room, Helena

July 7, 2011

Members in Attendance: Tim Norbeck, Lora Griffin, Bob Stansberry, Christa Seger, Cody Preston, Rena Steyaert, Sharon Tregidga, Jim Marks, Edith McClafferty

Excused Members: Mick Leary, Erica Swanson, Pam Campbell, Dustin Shipman, Vaughn Kauffman, Dave Mahon, Terry Galle

Non-Members in Attendance: Tim Harris, Dick Trerise, Steve York, Sara Casey, Francisco Roman, Doug Doty, Danni McCarthy, Jan Duiker, Karen Crogan, Anne Rainey, Dale Kimmet, Marlene Wallis

Guests in Attendance: Roger Holt, Bobbie Thurston, Stephanie Luehr, Virginia DeLand, Diana Tavary, Andree Larose, T. Booth, Karen Davis, and Tia Davis

Chairperson Tim Norbeck called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Panel members, OPI staff and visitors introduced themselves.

Thursday, July 7, 2011

The Panel reviewed the Proposed Agenda. Rena Steyaert moved to accept the Proposed Agenda, Sharon Tregidga seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Proposed Agenda was accepted as written.

The Panel reviewed the Minutes of the May 6-7, 2011, Panel meeting. Jim Marks moved to accept the minutes, Bob Stansberry seconded the motion and the motion passed. The minutes of the May 6-7, 2011, Panel meeting were accepted as written.

Parents, Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK)

Roger Holt, Executive Director, Parents, Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK), had the PLUK staff, Panel members and non-members introduce themselves and provide background information as to the life road traveled to get to this room and their contributions. Present through SKYPE were Carmen Sanchez, with the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in Washington, D.C., and Barbara Buswell in Colorado with the regional technical assistance program for parent centers.

Carmen Sanchez discussed sections of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act that authorized the parent centers and sections of the regulations for the state advisory panels. The areas discussed are highlighted in the Public Law 108-446-108th Congress that is included with the minutes.

Roger told the Panel that PLUK started in Billings in 1984 as a support group. The first grant received in 1986 provided for two staff and a telephone and four regional staff. Today, there are between 15-20 support staff. He said that there are 30,000 families in Montana dealing with a child with a disability.

Parents, Let's Unite for Kids provides one-to-one contact, consultation and support, workshops and training, information and referrals for families, educators, schools, service providers, and professionals.

OPI SPED Report

Dick Trerise informed the Panel that the Response to Intervention (RTI) position was filled by Amy Friez. Amy taught Computer Application and Social Studies at the CR Anderson Middle School, Helena, prior to joining the Special Education staff.

Project REAL

Sara Casey reported on the MBI Summer Institute and the State Personnel Development Grant program, Project REAL (Responsive Education for All Learners). The MBI Summer Institute is scheduled for the third week in June. At this time, 917 participants have registered for the institute; there are 59 presenters.

Project REAL is designed to address the professional development and support needs of instructional personnel in Montana's schools to meet the needs of students who struggle academically and socially. The project is designed to address three goals: Capacity Building; Support to LEAs; and Low-Incidence Support. Anticipated outcomes of this project are improved academic and social outcomes for students with disabilities, support to a statewide network of schools and more effective services for students who need high levels of support.

OPI Report

Steve York presented a PowerPoint titled Measuring Student Aspirations in Your School—Using the My Voice Survey. He noted that the data gathered is useless unless students' perception of reality is measured. Student aspirations include: Self-Worth (belonging, heroes and sense of accomplishment); Active Engagement (fun and excitement, curiosity and creativity, and spirit of adventure; and Purpose (leadership and responsibility, confidence to take action).

The gender of students taking the survey: males 7,487 or 52 percent; females 6,902 or 48 percent; making a total of 14,389. Students planning on going to college: 83.8 percent plan to go to college; 3.3 percent do not plan on going to college; and 12.9 percent were undecided.

My Voice 2011-12 contact is: Steve York, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction, 406-444-4434, E-mail, syork@mt.gov.

The PowerPoint presentation is a part of the minutes.

Presentation to Retiring Panel Members

The following retiring Panel members were presented with plaques in appreciation for their membership on the Montana Special Education Advisory Panel:

Tim Norbeck—Private School Representative

Dave Mahon—Parent of a Child with Disabilities

Dustin Shipman—State/Local Administrator

Rena Steyaert—Representatives of Other State Agencies involved in the Financing or Delivery of Related Services to Children with Disabilities

Pam Campbell—Representative of Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Cody Preston—Student Representative

The plaques for Dave Mahon, Dustin Shipman and Pam Campbell will be mailed.

The Panel celebrated Cody Preston's graduation from Helena High School with cake and presented Cody with a gift certificate.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Election of Officers

Sharon Tregidga moved that Vice Chairperson, Christa Seger, be elected as the Chairperson, Edith McClafferty seconded the motion and the motion passed. Christa Seger will serve as the incoming Chairperson for 2011-2012.

Tim Norbeck nominated Bob Stansberry as Vice-Chairperson, Edith McClafferty seconded the nomination and Bob Stansberry was appointed as the Vice-Chairperson by acclamation. Bob Stansberry will serve as the Vice Chairperson for the 2011-2012 school year,

Christa Seger nominated Lora Griffin as Secretary, Erica Swanson seconded the nomination and Lora Griffin was appointed as the Secretary by acclamation. Lora Griffin will serve as Secretary for 2011-2012.

Meeting Dates

September 22-23, 2011

Agenda Items

Orientation
Aftermath of Legislature
Overview of Special Education Projects
CSPD

Adjourn

Bob Stansberry moved to adjourn the meeting, Christa Seger seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERSHIP LIST 2010-2011

PRIVATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Tim Norbeck (Year 3)
Principal
Butte Central Catholic High School
9 S Idaho Street
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 494-9860 (Home)
(406) 782-6761 (Work)
Fax: (406) 723-3873
tim.norbeck@buttecentralschools.org

3120 Burlington (Home)
Butte, MT 59701

REGULAR CLASSROOM TEACHER

Lora Griffin (Year 1)
Teacher
Whitehall Public Schools
Box 1109
Whitehall, MT 59759
(406)494-1606 (Home)
(406)287-3882 (Work)
griffsmeadow@gmail.com

PO Box 664 (Home)
Whitehall, MT 59759

STATE AGENCY

Jim Marks (Year 1)
Disability Transitions Programs Director
Montana Department of Public Health
and Human Services

PARENT OF A CHILD WITH DISABILITIES

Dave Mahon (Year 3 Second Term)
Elementary Principal
Baker Schools
416 Lincoln Ave
PO Box 249
Baker, MT 59313
(406) 850-0643 (Home)
(406) 778-2022 (Work)
Fax: (406) 778-2785
E-mail: mahond@baker.k12.mt.us

HIGHER EDUCATION THAT PREPARES SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES PERSONNEL

Robert Stansberry (Year 1)
Associate Professor of Education
Carroll College
1601 N Benton Ave
Helena, MT 59602
(406)459-1090 (Cellular)
(406)447-4352 (Work)
Fax: (406)447-4533
cstansbe@carroll.edu

3775 Melkat Lane
Helena, MT 59602

TEACHER OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Christa Seger (Year 2)
935 Forest Glen
Bozeman, MT 59718

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Vaughn Kauffman (Year 1)
Special Education Director
2525 Lake Helena Dr
East Helena, MT 59635

STATE/LOCAL ADMINISTRATOR

Dustin Shipman (Year 3)
Principal
Boulder Elementary Schools
PO Box 838
Boulder, MT 59632
(406) 225-3316
E-mail: dustin.shipman@bgs.k12.mt.us

STATE CHILD WELFARE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR FOSTER CARE

Mick Leary (Year 2)
PO Box 8005
Helena, MT 59604

**VOCATIONAL, COMMUNITY, OR BUSINESS
CONCERNED WITH THE PROVISION OF
TRANSITION SERVICES TO CHILDREN WITH
DISABILITIES**

Terry Galle (Year 2 Second Term)
Transition Services
1400 Light House Lane
Galen, MT 59722
(406) 563-7308 (Home)
(406) 693-7620 (Work)
Fax: (406) 693-2351
tgalle@aware-inc.org

3611 Lost Creek Road (Home)
Anaconda, MT 59711

**REPRESENTATIVE FROM JUVENILE &
ADULT CORRECTIONS**

Sharon Tregidga (Year 1)
Chief Probation Officer
1st Judicial District
228 Broadway
Helena, MT 59601

PART C/IDEA REPRESENTATIVE

Erica Swanson
Part C Coordinator
Disability Services Division
111 N. Sanders
PO Box 4210
Helena, Montana 59604

**REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER STATE
AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE FINANCING OR
DELIVERY OF RELATED SERVICES TO
CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

Rena Steyaert (year 3)
Montana Medicaid Program Officer
School-Based Services
1400 Broadway
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-4066 (W)
(406) 458-1990 (H)
Fax: (406) 444-3846
rsteyaert@mt.gov

7855 Margaret Lane (Home)
Helena, MT 59602

**REPRESENTATIVE OF SUBTITLE B OF TITLE
VII OF THE MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS
ASSISTANCE ACT**

Pam Campbell (Year 3)
District Homeless Liaison
Helena Public Schools
Bryant School
1529 Boulder
Helena, MT 59601
pcampbell@helena.k12.mt.us

LEGISLATOR

Edith L. McClafferty (Year 1)
Representative
1311 Stuart Ave
Butte, MT 59701-5014
(406)490-5873
edie.mcclafferty@gmail.com

STUDENT

Cody Preston (Year 2)
3463 Birkland Dr.
Helena, MT 59602
(406) 443-2264 (H)
(406) 422-6569 (Capital HS)
doughboy1@bresnan.net